

# Tri-County news

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation Dudley, N.C.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News and Information For Cooperative Members

September 2017

## Appreciating Electricity a Penny at a Time

I'm old enough to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. For a nickel, you could buy enough candy to rot your teeth out, resulting in an expensive trip to the dentist!

But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity." Think about it.

To make the math easier, let's say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb — the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb — for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

Where else can you get that kind of value?

How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee, medicine or gasoline?

Gas has come down from its stratospheric levels of several years ago, but there is still no comparison to the value of electricity. For example, if a gallon of gas costs \$2.50 and your car gets 25 miles to the gallon, you can drive 176 yards — about two blocks — on a penny's worth of gas.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. Electricity is not expensive. It's that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications — even transportation these days.

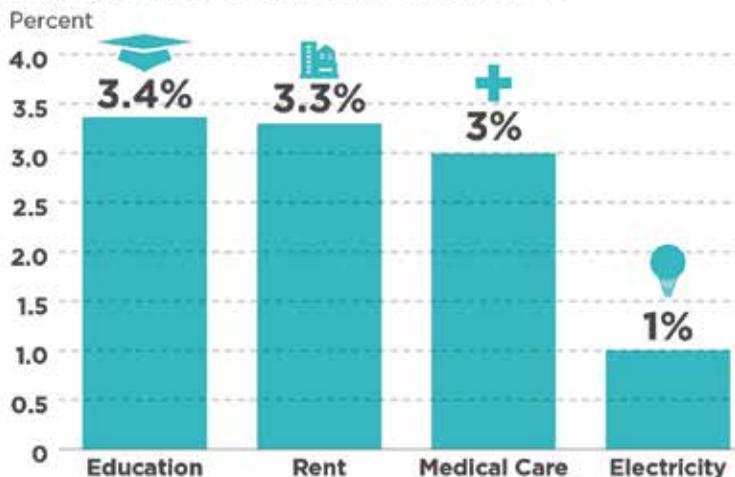
Few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money. The value of electricity is like the past days of penny candy, and it's OK to indulge yourself a little. But, unlike penny candy, penny electricity won't rot your teeth out.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

### Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



**J. Michael Davis**  
General Manager



## Teachers: Apply for Bright Ideas Grants by September 18

Time is running out for teachers to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 from Tri-County EMC's Bright Ideas education grant program. Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects must submit their application by September 18, 2017. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and more information on the Bright Ideas grant website at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

We are proud to support educators whose hard work, dedication and enthusiasm impact the lives of so many young people," said Deidra Locklear, Manager of Communications and Public Relations for Tri-County EMC. "Every year we are blown away by our local educators' ideas to bring learning to life in the classroom, and with Bright Ideas grants, we're excited to offer something in return."

Tri-County EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have allocated close to \$600,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2017–2018 school year.

The grants will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and all disciplines, including math, science, art, language, English and history. Last year, Tri-County EMC awarded more than \$82,946 to fund 99 illuminating classroom projects.

The Bright Ideas grant application requires an outline of the proposed project, a detailed budget and a description of the benefit to students. Applicants are encouraged to highlight the innovative, creative elements of the project and to proofread carefully. Teachers, submit your application by September 18, 2017!



*Farm workers should always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines — above, below and to the side—a 360-degree rule.*

## Harvest Workers Urged to Take Time to Reap Safe Harvest

It can be an exciting and exhausting time, the peak of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

The push of harvest time is easy for farm workers to forget the power lines overhead. It is a good idea to inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines—above, below and to the side—a 360-degree rule.

Farm workers should take these steps to ensure a safer harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins.

Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.

- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

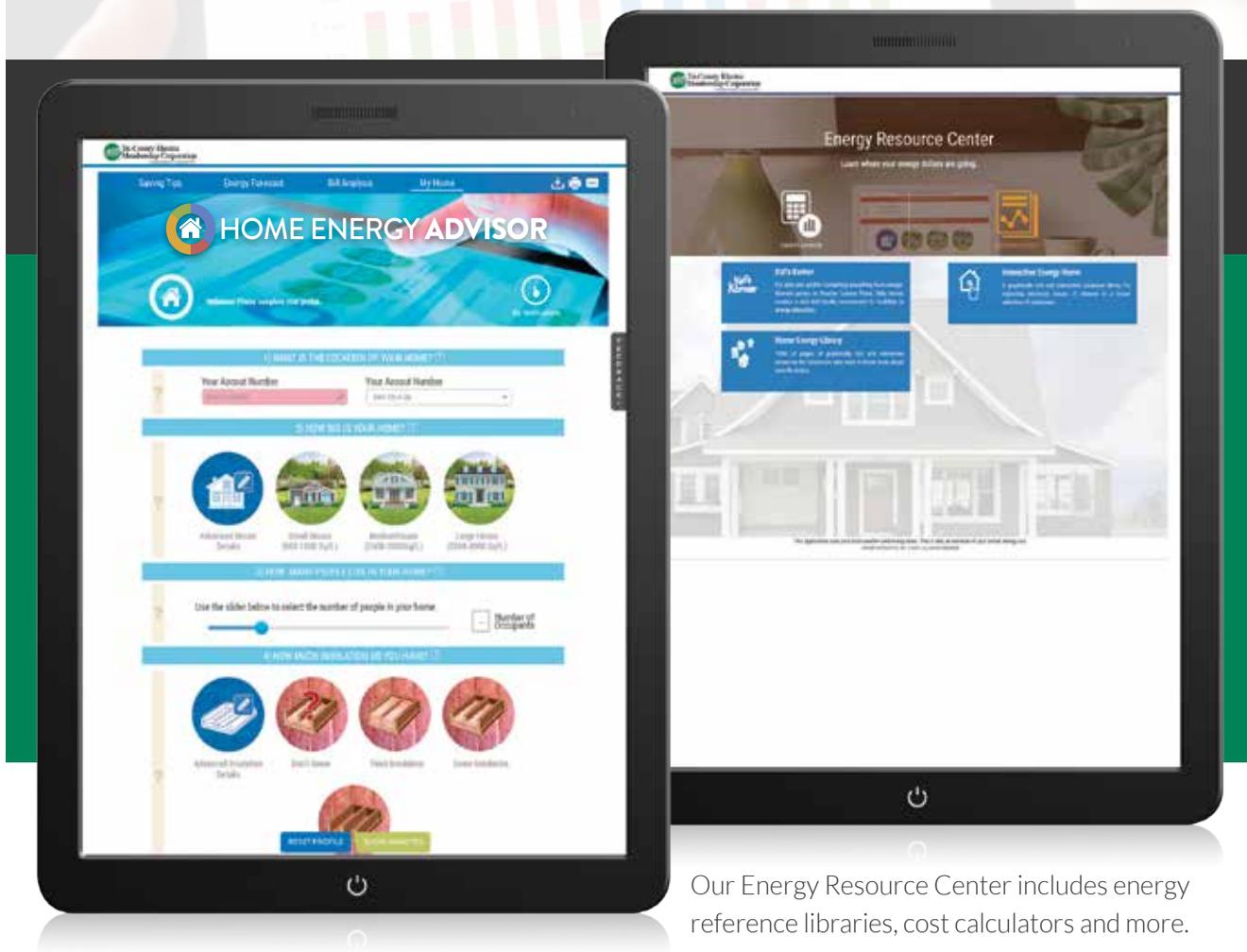
Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury.

# Be Energy Wise.

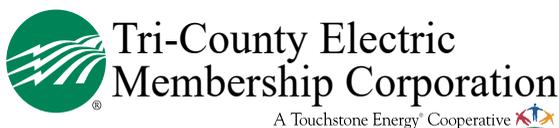
Learn how you can save energy and money with Tri-County Electric's **free** Energy Advisor and Energy Resource Center.



Our Energy Resource Center includes energy reference libraries, cost calculators and more.

## Home Energy Advisor is as easy as 1...2...3...

Just visit [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com) and look for the Home Energy Advisor link. Home Energy Advisor breaks down your energy use into dollars and provides recommendations on how to save.



- ...1 Take a quick survey
- ...2 Explore your energy use
- ...3 Find easy ways to save

Visit [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com) and start saving today.



# Tri-County news

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

**J. Michael Davis**  
General Manager

#### Management Staff

**Kenneth E. Davis, Jr.**  
Manager of Finance & Accounting

**Robert B. Kornegay**  
Manager of Marketing & Member Services

**Deidra Locklear, Editor**  
Manager of Communications & Public Relations

**Tony Grantham, P. E.**  
Manager of Engineering

**Michael Wood**  
Manager of Operations

**Josh Mattox**  
Manager of Information Technology

#### Board of Directors

**Carl W. Kornegay, Jr.**—President

**Leland Heath, Jr.**—Vice President

**William H. Farmer, Jr.**—Secretary

**Worth Overman**—Treasurer

**Keith Beavers**

**Dallace Grady**

**Jeff Henderson**

**Randy McCullen**

**Jennings Outlaw**

**Brandy Rouse**

**David Vinson**

#### Mission Statement

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

**We are here to serve you  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
and 365 days a year.**

**For Outages or Emergencies Call  
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869  
[www.tcemc.com](http://www.tcemc.com)**



**Employees—  
Ready To  
Serve**

Dana Lewis  
is one of 51  
employees

ready to serve you. Dana has worked with Tri-County since May 18, 1992, and serves as a Serviceman for the cooperative. Dana resides in Dudley with his wife Annabelle and daughter Anna.

## SAVE THE DATE • Saturday, November 11, 2017 77th Annual Meeting of Members

Kornegay Arena, The University of Mount Olive, Mount Olive, NC  
Registration begins at 12:30 P.M. Business Meeting begins at 1:30 P.M.

## The Cooperative Exchange

A Service For Members of Tri-County EMC

Members of Tri-County EMC may submit ads to The Cooperative Exchange on a first-come, first-serve basis. We ask that no commercial business ads be submitted and we reserve the right to refuse ads of questionable content. We also reserve the right to edit ads of unreasonable length. You may mail your ad to Cooperative Exchange Tri-County EMC, PO Box 130, Dudley, NC 28333. Please include your area code with your phone number. Or, you may call 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, ext. 621. Deadline for ads is the 1st of each month.

#### FOR SALE

**TUFFLINE DISC** 10.5ft. \$2200. Call 919-738-4710 (7).

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS** Stainless steel double sink (\$45), handmade 8 globe wagon-wheel light fixture (\$250). Call 252-559-0862 (7).

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS** Invacare Oxygen Concentrator (\$200), Coleman Air Mattress (\$50), 38' Metal Patio Chair Set w/ Umbrella (\$300). Call 252-525-3151. (9)

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS** AC Heat pump, Dryer, Glass Coffee Table, Bread Box, Super Twin Box Spring, Regular Twin Mattress, Women Clothes (Sz. 18-20), Women Shoes (Sz. 11W), Kirby Vacuum w/ Shampooer. Call 919-273-1623 (8).

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS** Nordic Track I Fit Elliptical, with stride adjustment, space saver, and 8 weeks personal training program (\$700), Tony Little Gazette Edge (\$75.00). Call 252-559-3235

Tri-County EMC will gladly publish announcements of fundraisers for non-profit organizations or special benefits for individuals if space is available. The deadline is the 1st of each month for the announcement to come out in the next newsletter. Call Deidra Locklear at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, Ext. 621.

Please show courtesy to those selling, renting and wanting items listed in the Cooperative Exchange by not calling before 7AM nor after 10 PM.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Goldsboro Walk for Alzheimer's North Carolina

Wayne, Duplin &  
Greene County

Saturday, October 28, 2017.

The walk will be hosted downtown Goldsboro at the Cornerstone Commons beginning at 8AM. For more information contact Carol Lancaster 919-778-8664 or Lisa Barker at 919-731-1608.



## HOLIDAY CLOSING

Tri-County County EMC will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2017, in observance of Labor Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize

the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to [www.tcemc.com](http://www.tcemc.com). You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone.

To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.